

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the cryogenic distillation of air, said apparatus comprising an assembled unit that comprises:

a first distillation column module within which is provided ~~at least one~~ a single cryogenic distillation column;

a further distillation column module within which is provided at least one further cryogenic distillation column, said further distillation column module being mounted on top of said first distillation column module;

a heat exchange module within which is provided heat exchange means for cooling column feed air to a cryogenic distillation temperature; and

at least one further processing unit;

wherein ~~the or~~ each distillation column, said heat exchange means and the or each further processing unit are operationally interconnected and said assembled unit is suitable for transportation to and erection at a site for a cryogenic air separation plant.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the diameter of ~~the or~~ at least one distillation column is over about 3.5m.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the diameter of ~~the or~~ at least one distillation column is about 5m or about 6m.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~Claim 6-1~~ Claim 1 wherein the first distillation column module comprises a high pressure distillation column, said

apparatus further comprising a second distillation column module within which is provided a low pressure cryogenic distillation column.

8-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the or at least one further processing unit is an air purification unit.

12. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the air purification unit comprises at least two air purification vessels, each vessel comprising at least one bed of carbon dioxide and/or water adsorbent material, said vessels being arranged in parallel and configured for use in a temperature or a pressure swing adsorption process.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the or at least one further processing unit is selected from the group consisting of a compressor for compressing feed air or other process gases, an expander for expanding liquid or gas streams, a chiller tower for cooling process water streams, a product compressor for compressing distillation products, a recycle compressor for compressing recycled gas stream(s), a pump for pumping distillation products, a "deoxo" unit for removing trace oxygen from a product gas stream, a dump vaporiser for vaporising liquid inventory from the apparatus, a silencer for reducing the noise given off by any process stream, a warm heat exchanger for warming process gas streams or a DCAC for cooling and drying air discharged from a compressor.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the or at least one further processing unit is a chiller tower.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim

1 wherein the or at least one further processing unit is provided within at least one further processing unit module within which is provided pipe work for operational interconnection of the or each further processing unit in fluid flow communication with other components of the apparatus.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 further comprising a framework of support members for supporting the components of the apparatus.

18. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 17 further comprising panels provided between adjacent support members forming at least one enclosure within the framework within which is provided the or at least one further processing unit.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the construction of apparatus as defined by Claim 1, said method comprising:

providing a heat exchange module within which is provided heat exchange means for cooling column feed air to a cryogenic temperature and at least one further processing unit in position relative to a first distillation column module within which is provided at least one cryogenic distillation column;

providing a further distillation column module within which is provided at least one further distillation column in position on top of the first distillation column module;

interconnecting operationally ~~the or each~~ distillation column, the heat exchange means and the or each further processing unit; and

attaching the further distillation column module, the heat exchange module and the or each further processing unit in position relative to the first distillation column module to form an assembled unit that is suitable for transportation to and erection at the site for an air separation plant.

20-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) AThe method as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claims 19 wherein each component of the apparatus is attached directly to at least one adjacent component.

24. (Currently Amended) AThe method as claimed in ~~any of~~ Claims 19 wherein each component of the apparatus is attached in position relative the first distillation column module by a framework of support members.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for the construction of a cryogenic air separation plant comprising constructing apparatus defined in ~~any of~~ Claims 1 to 18 to produce an assembled unit, transporting the assembled unit to the site for the plant and erecting the assembled unit on site.

26. (Currently Amended) AThe method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein construction takes place at a dockside or a construction facility with access to a dockside prior to transportation to site by sea.

27-29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) Use of apparatus as defined in ~~any of~~ Claims 1 to 18 in the construction of a cryogenic air separation plant.

31. (Original) Use as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the cryogenic air separation plant produces at least 3500 metric tons/day of oxygen.